

Policy Group Recommendations for Additional 1999 Watershed Projects

November 18, 1999

At its June 1999 meeting, the CALFED Policy Group expressed concern over the small number of watershed projects which were recommended for funding as part of the 1999 ecosystem restoration projects and directed CALFED staff to consider additional watershed projects from the 1999 solicitation for funding. Additional projects were identified which were then reviewed by the Interim Science Panel, Ecosystem Roundtable and Bay Delta Advisory Council. On November 17, 1999, Policy Group has recommended funding eight watershed projects as described below. Total recommended funding is approximately \$1,800,000.

99-C138: Colusa Basin Watershed Project

This project will assist private landowners in reactivating important ecological processes and functions of riparian corridors and associated rangeland and wetlands, addressing non-point source pollution, flood control issues, and exotic invasive weed abatement at six selected sites. In principle, this is a good proposal. It is recommended for funding conditioned upon the monitoring section being clarified and tied to Watershed Program needs. It was highly ranked by the Technical Panel. Assurances of cost share commitments should be provided before funding.

Applicant:	Colusa County RCD/Colusa Basin Drainage District
Time frame:	1/00 - 1/03
Requested amount:	\$492,500
Recommended amount:	\$492,500

Contributions to desired outcomes of the Watershed Program:

- 3.3.1. Improved coordination and assistance - this project will involve private landowners, local agencies, local interest groups and state and federal agencies in a collaborative effort.
- 3.3.2. Development of monitoring protocols and application of adaptive management processes - the monitoring portion of this project has the potential (with assistance in developing a QAPP for the protocols proposed) to generate important elements to overall watershed monitoring. It also will generate baseline data for an important segment of the Sacramento River watershed.
- 3.3.3. Improved and expanded watershed education and public outreach - this project has significant education and interaction components that will further both the interaction with, and the education of , public and private stakeholders in the area.

99-C120: Lower Mokelumne Stewardship

This would fund the next step of the Lower Mokelumne Watershed Stewardship Program to prepare a Stewardship Plan and implement priority stewardship actions. The proposal was

ranked highly by Technical Panel, with notation of strong recommendation for funding. Recommend funding Element 1 only pending results of Phase I, funded earlier by CALFED.

Applicant: San Joaquin Resource Conservation District
Time frame: 2 years
Requested amount: \$654,000
Recommended amount: \$227,000

Contributions to desired outcomes of the Watershed Program:

- 3.3.1. Improved coordination and assistance - this project will join several local and state agency and organizations in a collaborative effort. It builds on existing partnerships, with the intent to expand cooperation.
- 3.3.2. Development of monitoring protocols and application of adaptive management processes - the intent of this program is to apply adaptive management of the program and resources of the Lower Mokelumne.
- 3.3.5. Improved watershed stewardship - this project will add considerably to the existing efforts in the region to establish and maintain watershed stewardship in practice and policy.

99-C116 Clear Creek Prescription

The purpose of the Clear Creek Prescription is to detail an ecosystem-based watershed management prescription in the Clear Creek watershed. The proposal was ranked highly by Technical Panel in spite of its location above Whiskeytown Reservoir. The project has good representation from many areas of the community. Recommended for funding less costs for the transportation analysis (should be done by county/state) and landscape model (no assurance of the usefulness and/or transferability of the model)

Applicant: Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
Time frame: fall/99 - fall/01
Requested amount: \$322,960
Recommended amount: \$256,260

Contributions to desired outcomes of the Watershed Program:

- 3.3.1. Improved coordination and assistance - the nature of this project is to promote and strengthen collaborative partnerships in an important tributary to the Sacramento River. It includes the participation of private landowners in addition to other stakeholders from the public and private sectors.
- 3.3.3. Improved and expanded watershed education and public outreach - the project will add a substantive element to the ongoing watershed education efforts in this tributary watershed. The broad representation of watershed stakeholders will strengthen the education benefits of this proposal.
- 3.3.5. Improved watershed stewardship - a major purpose of this project is the improvement of the stewardship of the Clear Creek watershed

99C-114: Yuba Watershed Council

This project will provide funding for a watershed coordinator for the Yuba Watershed Council, a collaborative effort of over 20 local, state and federal agencies, community groups, environmental organizations and neighborhood associations. The proposal was rated medium to high by the Technical Panel. The project would meet the desire of the Watershed Program to support start-up and capacity building programs in important areas.

Applicant: Yuba Watershed Council/Nevada City RCD
Time frame: 11/99 - 11/01
Requested amount: \$142,618
Recommended amount: \$142,618

Contributions to desired outcomes of the Watershed Program:

- 3.3.1 Improved coordination and assistance - the Technical Panel noted that this is an important area for coordination of efforts. This project will provide considerable impetus to an effort already underway to build a sustainable watershed management partnership of public and private stakeholders.
- 3.3.5 Improved watershed stewardship - this project will help generate local capacity to address a wide range of issues related to ecosystem conditions. The wide participation of diverse interests is a marked advantage in establishing and maintaining the ability to effectively manage watershed resources.

99-B191: Levee Setback Geomorphic Model

This project will develop a geomorphic model that allows simulation and demonstration of the response of riverine systems to levee removal and setback. The prototype model can be used in leveed reaches of rivers in the Bay-Delta system. This model also provides data for a riparian habitat model that is being developed at UC Davis.

This project is a good beginning to help describe watershed functions. The project needs to be connected to a strong monitoring program to calibrate the model under real situations.

Applicant: University of California, Davis
Time frame: 2 years
Requested amount: \$104,458
Recommended amount: \$104,458

Contributions to desired outcomes of the Watershed Program:

- 3.3.2 Development monitoring protocols and application of adaptive management processes - the information generated from this project can provide significant assistance to the Watershed Program in determining some of the relationships between CALFED goals and watershed function. Levee placement is a significant issue throughout the Bay-Delta watershed system at many different scales. Small levees in upper reaches of the watershed are the most likely to benefit from the results of this study.

3.3.3 Improved and expanded watershed education and public outreach - the results of this study will provide excellent education for local communities. If calibration of the model is done under locally specific situations, the education benefits will be greatly enhanced.

99-C134: American River (South and Middle Fork) Watershed Stewardship Project

This project includes the development of a Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy for the South and Middle forks of the American River. This effort will be integrated with the existing work of Placer County RCD on the North and Middle forks. The project is consistent with the Watershed Program principles and many of the objectives/desired outcomes. In addition, the project would include a unique social element, an important component to the Watershed Program.

Applicant: Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District
Timeframe: 10/99 - 9/02.
Requested Amount: \$203,250
Recommended amount: \$203,250

Contributions to desired outcomes of the Watershed Program:

- 3.3.1. Improved coordination and assistance - this project comprises strong stakeholder involvement and includes the participation of local, state, and federal government.
- 3.3.2. Development of monitoring protocols and application of adaptive management processes - the monitoring protocols of the project include not only biophysical data, but also socioeconomic and institutional data - two elements that the Watershed Program points out as critical components to watershed management.
- 3.3.5. Improved watershed stewardship - project emphasizes improving the ecological function of the watershed, including protection/restoration of riparian/aquatic habitats; improving water quality flows, and fuel management.

99C-109: Napa River Watershed Stewardship Year 2

This project would build upon the work in the Napa River watershed completed under a previous CALFED grant. Proposed work is in concert with the principles, objectives, and desired outcomes of the Watershed Program. Furthermore, the project addresses multiple watershed issues through development of local partnerships. This project is the only proposal to score maximum points for ecological benefits on its review panel.

Applicant: Napa County Resource Conservation District
Timeframe: 10/99 - 12/00.
Requested Amount: **\$191,100**
Recommended amount: \$191,100

Contributions to desired outcomes of the Watershed Program:

- 3.3.1. Improved coordination and assistance - project includes a broad array of collaborators, including landowners, local groups, and all levels of government.
- 3.3.2. Development of monitoring protocols and application of adaptive management processes - project includes a comprehensive monitoring element that, to the extent possible, will be compatible with the IEP monitoring effort in the Delta.
- 3.3.3. Improved and expanded watershed education and public outreach - project would provide training to stewardship groups regarding watershed evaluation and monitoring, and implementation techniques.
- 3.3.5. Improved watershed stewardship - project will establish demonstration sites for floodplain wetland restoration, and riparian corridor redevelopment (including exotic species removal).

99-B157: Development of a River Corridor Management Plan for the Lower American River

This proposal would develop a River Corridor Management Plan that creates a framework and consensus building process for pursuing CALFED's vision and objectives for ecosystem restoration along the lower American River. This proposal was well ranked during review by Technical Panel. There was general agreement on the need and desirability of this project. The project has core involvement from necessary local, State and Federal agencies, with additional involvement from businesses and community groups. Recommend funding contingent on additional outreach effort to broaden involvement from the local community.

Applicant:	Sacramento City/Water Forum
Timeframe:	1 year
Requested Amount:	\$250,000
Recommended amount:	\$250,000

Contributions to desired outcomes of the Watershed Program

- 3.3.1- Improved coordination and assistance - This project involves and is supported by an array of collaborators, including community organizations, resource managers, local businesses, and local, State and federal agencies.
- 3.3.2- Development of monitoring protocols and application of adaptive management- Monitoring component of the project will enhance knowledge of riverine processes, and the effect of restoration activities on aquatic habitats and water quality.
- 3.3.5 - Improved watershed stewardship - Project could result in improved riparian and aquatic habitat conditions, as well as improved flood management characteristics along the lower American River.